



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Philadelphia, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Philadelphia was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Philadelphia (population 1,517,550), a federally designated Empowerment Zone and Renewal Community, is the fifth largest city in the United States. It sits at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Both rivers played significant roles in the industrial and commercial history of the city. Today, the city faces the legacy of its 19th Century industrial development and the 20th Century decline of many of these industries. The riverfronts include significant brownfields sites, including scrap yards and solid waste distribution facilities. Many of these sites are abandoned eyesores that border on low-income neighborhoods. Nearly 23 percent of Philadelphia



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the City of Philadelphia for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments on parcels of land that lie within the River City Initiative. This initiative focuses on the revitalization of the Philadelphia waterfronts along the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Ten percent of the funds are reserved for assessment projects that will result in the creation of greenspace.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Philadelphia, PA

215-683-2028

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

residents fall below the poverty level and more than 50 percent are minority. Environmental site assessments will provide the city with the information and tools to help address health concerns about the sites and act as an incentive to redevelop blighted areas of the city. Assessment of the underutilized and abandoned sites around the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers will help the city with its River City Initiative, an ongoing effort to redevelop the area to include more desirable residential and commercial facilities, along with greenspace, thereby improving the quality of life for area residents.